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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

HPSCI

Office of Legislative Counsel

OLC 78-1158

20 MAR 1978

Mr. Loch Johnson  
Permanent Select Committee on  
Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Loch:

Thank you for your patience in waiting for our response to your question about the Agency's retention of files on U.S. citizens. This question applies, as far as I know, exclusively to the CI Staff. I am hopeful that the following subparagraphs will satisfactorily answer your questions:

(a) The CI Staff has approximately 325 soft files on U.S. citizens which have been segregated from other Staff file holdings. These files are stored in a vaulted area and are maintained under secure conditions. They are available for FOIA and Privacy Act tracing but otherwise are restricted to CI Staff personnel on a very limited basis.

(b) It is the CI Staff's understanding that it is prohibited by [redacted] 7 September 1976 (enclosed) from actually destroying any files. Even though the Staff intends to recommend destruction on most of these files, that action must be approved by the National Archives and the House and Senate Select Committees on Intelligence.

(c) In the meantime, the CI Staff is in the process of reviewing each of these folders in order to recommend destruction of all files and materials that should not be retained in the Operations Directorate.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

/s/

[redacted]  
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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